

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07922 102003Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /061 W  
-----077553 110516Z /15

R 101842Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8730  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7922

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, VE, US  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ PLANS BRING FURTHER CHARGE  
OF DEFAMATION AGAINST ORLANDO BOSCH

REF: CARACAS 6787 (NOTAL)

1. THE GOV INFORMATION MINISTRY RELEASED A STATEMENT AUGUST 9  
DENYING AN "EL NACIONAL" STORY OF THAT DATE THAT PRESIDENT  
PEREZ PLANNED TO SUE THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE  
DAILY JOURNAL" (DJ) FOR DISRESPECT TO THE PERSON OF THE  
PRESIDENT FOR HAVING PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW JULY 5  
(SEE REFTEL) WITH ORLANDO BOSCH. INFORMATION MINISTRY  
STATEMENT SAID THAT GOV REQUESTED MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO  
UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO CHARGE BOSCH HIMSELF UNDER  
THE PENAL CODE.

2. "EL NACIONAL" STORY STATED THAT PEREZ HAD REQUESTED  
THAT A LEGAL SUIT BE INTRODUCED AGAINST THE DJ, BASED ON  
ARTICLE 148 OF THE PENAL CODE WHICH STATES: "HE WHO  
OFFENDS BY DISRESPECT, BY WORD, OR IN WRITING OR IN ANY  
OTHER MANNER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OR WHOEVER ASSUMES  
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HIS POSITION, WILL BE PUNISHED WITH PRISON FOR SIX MONTHS  
TO THIRTY MONTHS, IF THE OFFENSE IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS,  
OR WITH ONE-HALF OF THIS PENALTY IF THE OFFENSE IS CONSIDERED  
SLIGHT. THE PENALTY WILL BE INCREASED BY ONE-THIRD IF THE  
OFFENSE IS DONE PUBLICLY."

3. EVENING AUGUST 9 PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD THE AMBASSADOR

THAT GOV HAD NEVER PLANNED TO SUE THE DJ, BUT RATHER WOULD CHARGE BOSCH WITH "DISRESPECT" TO THE PRESIDENT (PRESUMABLY UNDER THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ARTICLE 148).

4. COMMENT: THE BOSCH INTERVIEW CONTAINED ALLEGATIONS BY BOSCH (REFTEL) THAT THE GOV HAD PERMITTED HIM TO RETURN TO VENEZUELA FREELY AND THAT BOSCH HAD A MEETING SCHEDULED WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ FOR MID-OCTOBER, 1976. BOSCH ALSO CLAIMED THAT PEREZ WAS A "TRAITOR" TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN LATIN AMERICA. THESE ALLEGATIONS IMPLIED NOT ONLY THAT GOV HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF BOSCH'S MOVEMENTS, BUT THAT PEREZ PERSONALLY KNEW AND APPROVED OF THEM. THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE THEREFORE QUITE DAMAGING TO BOTH GOV AND TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' DISCLAIMERS OF ANY COMPLICITY (HOWEVER REMOTE) WITH ORLANDO BOSCH. ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT INDICATES HIS FIRM DESIRE ONCE AGAIN TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THE GOV WILL NOT ACCEPT ATTEMPTS BY BOSCH OR LATTER'S SUPPORTERS TO DISCREDIT GOV. THIS DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWS IN THE WAKE OF THE JAILING OF THE DEFENSE LAWYERS FOR THE "CUBANA AIRLINER" DEFENDANTS, INCLUDING BOSCH'S LAWYER (CARACAS 7763 AND 7532).

5. ALSO, "EL NACIONAL" EMERGES WITH CONSIDERABLE EGG ON ITS FACE. WE GATHER ITS REPORTERS THOUGHT THEY HAD A SCOOP, BUT MANAGED TO MISTAKE THE DEFENDANT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SOPN, VE, US, (BOSCH, ORLANDO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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